

begun. The notice shall identify the agricultural commodity, including any like or directly competitive commodities, the marketing year being investigated, the price series being used, and the production area covered by the petition. The notice may also announce the scheduling of a public hearing, if requested by the petitioners. If the petition does not meet the requirements of § 1580.201(c), the Administrator shall notify as soon as possible the contact person for the group or the authorized representative of the deficiencies.

§ 1580.202 Hearings, petition reviews, and amendments.

(a) If the petitioner, or any other person(s) found by the Administrator to have a substantial interest in the proceedings, submits not later than 10 days after the filing date a request in writing for a hearing, the Administrator shall provide for a public hearing and afford such interested person an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard.

(b) If the petitioner, or any other person(s) having an interest in the proceedings takes issue with any of the information published in the FEDERAL REGISTER concerning the petition, they may submit to the Administrator their comments in writing or electronically for consideration by the Administrator not later than 10 days after the filing date.

(c) A producer residing outside the impacted area identified in a petition may file to become a party to the petition by fulfilling the requirements of § 1580.201(c) within 10 days of the filing date. The Administrator may amend the original petition to expand the impacted area and include the additional filer, or consider it a separate filing.

(d) The Administrator shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as possible any changes to the original notice resulting from any actions taken under this section.

§ 1580.203 Determination of eligibility and certification by the Administrator.

(a) As soon as practicable after the filing date, but in any event not later than 40 days after that date, the Administrator shall determine whether

the petitioners satisfy the following conditions for adjustment assistance.

(1) The national average price for the agricultural commodity for the marketing year under review is less than 80 percent of the average of the national average prices for the 5 marketing years preceding the most recent marketing year, and

(2) Increases in imports of articles like or directly competitive with the agricultural commodity contributed importantly to the decline in price described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) If the Administrator determines that the above conditions have been satisfied, the producers covered by the petition shall be certified as eligible for adjustment assistance.

(c) Upon making a determination, whether affirmative or negative, the Administrator shall promptly publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a summary of the determination, together with the reasons for making the determination.

(d) In addition, the Administrator shall notify producers covered by a certification how to apply for adjustment assistance. Notification methods may include direct mailings to known producers, messages to directly affected producer groups and organizations, electronic communications, internet web site notices, and use of broadcast and print media.

(e) Whenever a group of agricultural producers is certified as eligible for assistance, the Administrator shall use the occasion to notify and inform other producers about the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program and how they may petition for adjustment assistance.

[68 FR 50049, Aug. 20, 2003; 68 FR 62731, Nov. 6, 2003]

§ 1580.301 Application for trade adjustment assistance.

(a) Only producers covered by a certification of eligibility may apply for adjustment assistance. Producers may request advice from FSA regarding the preparation and submission of their applications.

(b) An eligible producer may submit an application for adjustment assistance by submitting to FSA a designated application form at any time after the certification date but not